

**REMARKS:**

A new Abstract has been submitted and headings have been added, in accordance with the Examiner's request. The claims have been amended to conform with preferred U.S. practice. Means-plus-function language has been removed and the apparatus claims have been amended to ensure infringement at the time the goods are sold, prior to being put into use. In addition, the claims have been amended to avoid the art of record.

In accordance with the Examiner's requirement, a revised specification "with better font and lines double spaced on good quality paper" is enclosed. A marked-up version of the specification is also enclosed.

Applicants will submit a set of drawings complying with the Patent and Trademark Office Rules in response to an indication of allowable subject matter.

Independent claim 1, as amended, clearly distinguishes over the art of record by requiring a logic block that is arranged for cumulatively storing the results of the matching, as the matching proceeds. In addition, the memory is required to be operable to render the cells matched in a search phase to be serially available in an exchange sequence for access via the common address and databases. The foregoing features are not disclosed, nor made obvious, by the art of record.

Claims 1-11 were previously rejected as being anticipated by Houseman et al, U.S. Patent 4,559,618. Houseman et al discloses a CAM module (his CAMM) and a CAM comprising a set of such CAMMs. A single Houseman et al CAMM includes a set of registers. The pattern input is fed to the registers, and each register with a Hit energizes a respective output match line. There is a full set of match lines, one for each register. Thus the Hits are made available in parallel. External circuitry can monitor these lines and be used to read out the Hit registers in any desired manner.

For the simple single CAMM system, the register length is effectively the same as the data unit length. Each register is entirely independent.

If a longer data unit length is desired, then several CAMMs are connected in parallel to form a CAM. For a single register in the first CAMM, there are corresponding registers, one in each of the other CAMMs, together forming a group of registers which have a single data unit. For searching, the entire search pattern is fed to the entire set of

CAMMs, so that each segment of the search pattern is fed to a different CAMM. The match lines for a single data unit (spread across the entire set of CAMMs) are effectively ANDed together so that the match output from the data unit is a Hit only if there are Hits for all the data unit segments together.

From the foregoing, it is apparent that Houseman et al fails to disclose the features of claim 1, particularly as amended.

In addition, the Wyland reference, U.S. Patent 5,440,715, which discloses the operation of a conventional content address memory (CAM), fails to disclose the foregoing features of claim 1.

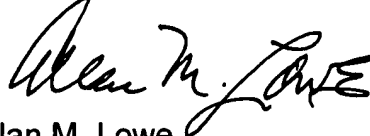
Since claims 2-11 depend on claim 1, and therefore include all the limitations of claim 1, the dependent claims are allowable with claim 1.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested and deemed in order.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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